

Development of a European standard for spiritual care core competences for undergraduate nursing/midwifery students

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Intro

Regulatory and educational bodies require nurses/midwives to address the personal, religious and spiritual beliefs of their clients as part of holistic care. Research highlights that students must learn about spiritual/person centred care. There is a great deal of inconsistency in how spiritual care is addressed in nursing education throughout Europe.

Aims

1. To build a European network of midwife and nursing educators
2. To share knowledge and skills in spiritual care to develop:

a) Core competences for spiritual care

b) A matrix for spiritual care education in nursing

c) A toolbox to support spiritual care education

Participants

The EPICC project (Enhancing Nurses' and Midwives' Competence in Providing Spiritual Care through Innovative Education and Compassionate Care) has worked with more than 60 nurse educators, researchers, students and stakeholders, from 19 European countries.

Method

Through a Delphi Process over 2,5 years the participants discussed and developed the project outcomes.

Results

1. Four Core Spiritual Care Competences for undergraduate nursing/midwifery students
2. A Gold Standard Matrix for spiritual care education to illustrate factors contributing to development of spiritual care competences
3. An Educational toolkit to inform and support spiritual care education
4. Website for EPICC at www.epicc-project.eu

Four Core Competences in Spiritual Care

1.

Intrapersonal spirituality

Is aware of the importance of spirituality on health and wellbeing.
2.

Interpersonal spirituality

Engages with persons' spirituality, acknowledging their unique spiritual and cultural worldviews, beliefs and practices.
3.

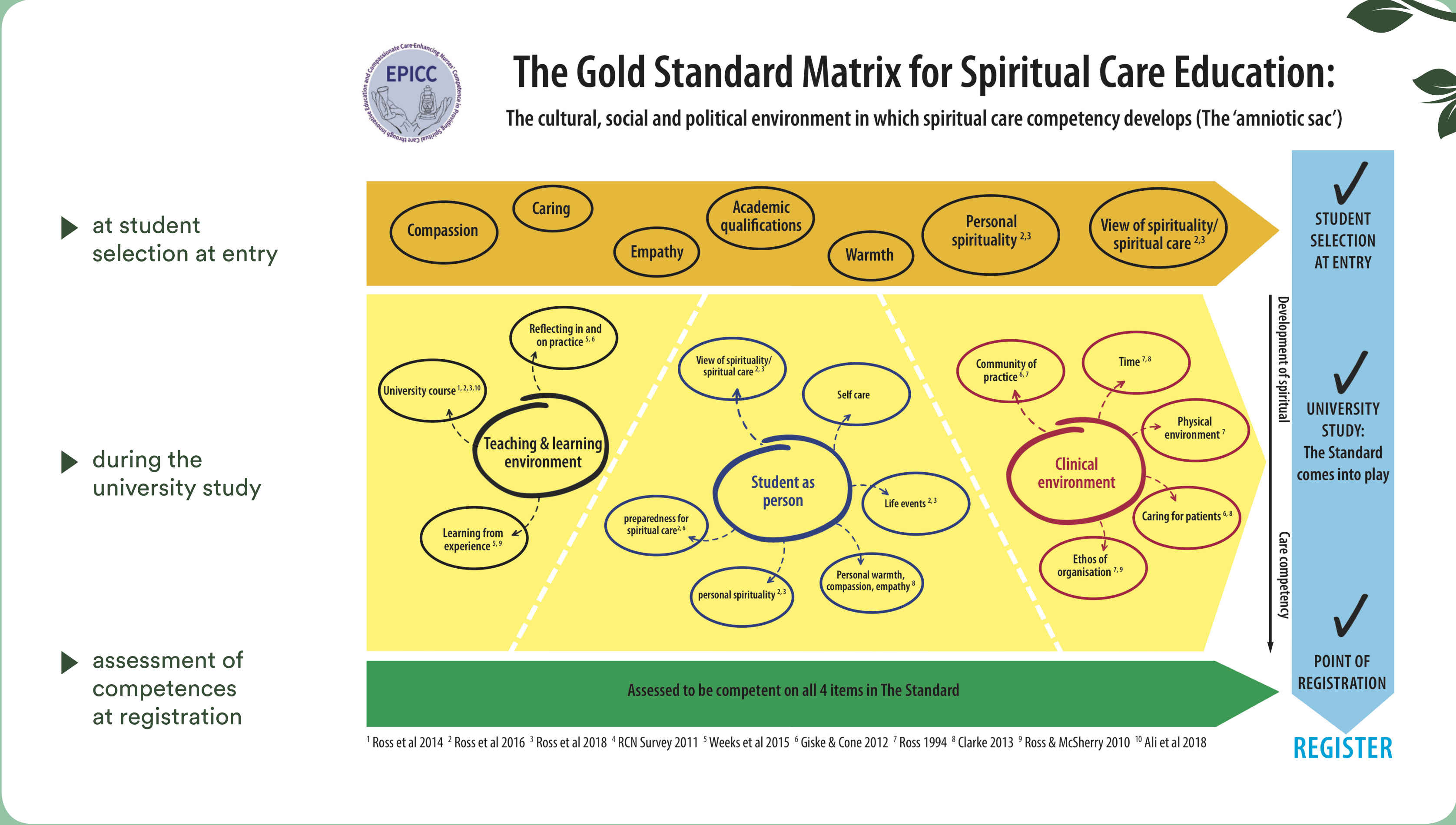
Spiritual care: Assessment and planning

Assesses spiritual needs and resources using appropriate formal or informal approaches, and plans spiritual care, maintaining confidentiality and obtaining informed consent.
4.

Spiritual care: Intervention and evaluation

Responds to spiritual needs and resources within a caring, compassionate relationship.

The gold standard Matrix illustrates what we know is important



REFERENCES

Ross, L., McSherry, W., Giske, T., van Leeuwen, R., Schep-Akkerman, A., Koslander, T., Hall, J., Steinfeldt, V.Ø., Jarvis, P. (2018) Nursing and midwifery students' perceptions of spirituality, spiritual care, and spiritual care competency: A prospective, longitudinal, correlational European study. Nurse Education Today, doi:10.1016/j.nedt.2018.05.002